

The Arlington Advocate

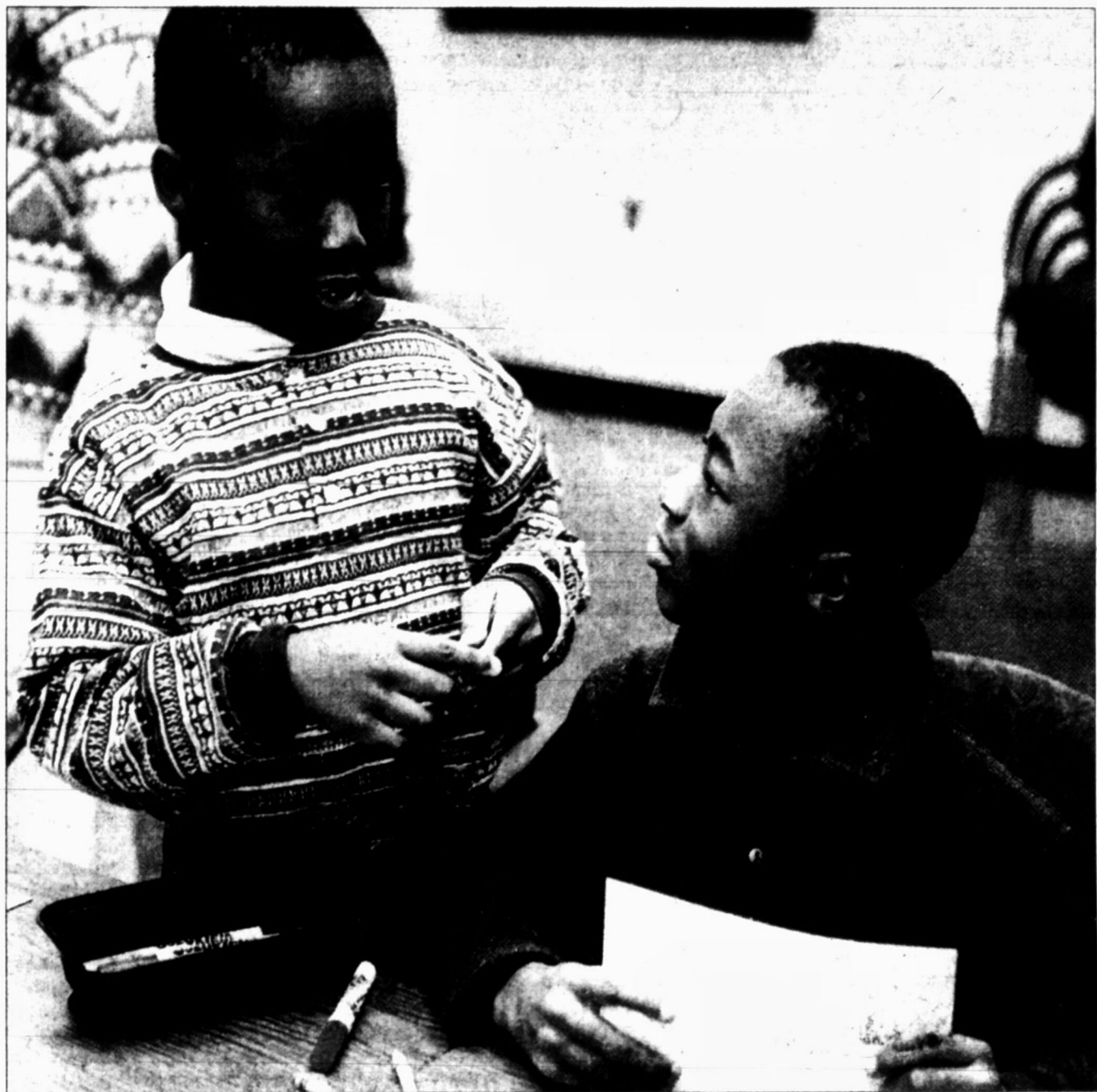


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BOOK 'EM



At the "Tell Your Own Story, Make Your Own Book" workshop at the Robbins Public Library Saturday, six-year-old Kwasi Offel-Addo and his brother, eight-year-old Kwaku, discuss the books they are making. Left, Amanda Chin, 7, concentrates on her book.

STAFF PHOTOS BY ELLEN BULLOCK

Mahon seeks review of town manager's authority, duties

BY DAN SHOHL
STAFF WRITER

A controversial Town Meeting proposal by Selectman Diane Mahon, which would shrink the town manager's authority, prompted a special meeting of the board Monday.

At issue was whether the board should place, as a selectmen's submission, a particular article for the annual warrant, the formal order of town business taken up by Town Meeting every spring.

Mahon had recently proposed a warrant article that would change the authority of the town manager as provided by the Town Manager Act, the state law under which Arlington set up its current form of government in 1953.

Town Manager Donald Marquis has announced that he will retire in November

after more than three decades in the position. Mahon said the authority of the town manager has expanded as Marquis has grown into his job. She said Arlington should examine all of the manager's powers in anticipation of a new manager.

Mahon's original plan was to shelve two appointing powers away from the town manager and shift them to the selectmen. She had singled out the town's Conservation Commission and Redevelopment Board, whose members are nominated by the manager and approved by the selectmen. Arlington has more than a dozen boards and commissions that are appointed in this way.

On Monday, she retracted the old measure and offered a new article, one much broader in scope. The new article would open up the entire job description to

SEE REVIEW, PAGE 5

Police investigate case of falling bowling balls

BY DAN SHOHL
STAFF WRITER

She drove home with her infant son. An *Indigo Girls* CD played as she angled her brand-new mini-van toward the Pleasant Street exit, driving east on Route 2, on a dark, cold night last Wednesday. Then she heard the noise.

"I just heard this loud bang sound, like gunfire," she said. "I looked the direction of the rear passenger window, and it was just shattered."

The woman, a 42-year-old Arlingtonian who asked that her name not be published, pulled over to the shoulder to check her six-month-old, strapped into his child-safety cradle on the rear passenger seat.

As she started to get out, she noticed an object lying at the floor of the van. It was a candlepin bowling ball, the size of a large grapefruit and weighing almost three pounds. She went to check on her son, who appeared to be okay.

"Glass had shattered and fallen all over

him," she said. "I took him out and went back into the car and called the police."

The boy had not been injured, and his mother suggested that he escaped harm because his head rested below the lower frame of the side window.

As she waited for police to arrive, a tow-truck driver happened to stop by and offered her a seat in his cab. She never saw or heard the person or people who might have thrown the ball.

"My concern wasn't to look to see what was there," she said. "It was to so what shape my son was in. There might have been someone there, but I wasn't looking."

Police arrived within minutes. As the woman described what had happened to the cops, a second, similar attack took place a quarter-mile to the west, this time in the west-bound lane of Route 2. A 53-year-old Dedham woman had been driving on the highway when a candlepin ball crashed through the middle of her windshield, spraying glass at her head and

SEE BOWLING, PAGE 12

No traffic relief in sight

Experts don't see ways to greatly improve Center

BY DAN SHOHL
STAFF WRITER

Commuter traffic congestion in Arlington Center might be eased marginally, but not dramatically, according to town consultants reporting to the Redevelopment Board.

Consultants with Boston-based BSC Group, a planning and engineering firm, brought the finding of their traffic study for the Center to the Redevelopment Board Monday night, laying out the data and asking for input.

BSC's Charles Kalauskas outlined the traffic action on Massachusetts Avenue and Mystic, Chestnut, and Pleasant streets, along with the flow through neighborhoods nearby.

Kalauskas also noted that in the

past 10 years, traffic through the center has increased heading to the west and to the south. He speculated that the growth of industries along Greater Boston's two main beltways, I-495 and Route 128, have bumped the west-bound flow. The Chestnut Street intersection is seeing progressively longer lines as cars wait to turn south on Mystic, he said.

Compared to its feeder roads, the town's main artery appears to be holding up pretty well.

"Delays and [traffic] queues on Massachusetts Avenue are not that long, except in the turn lanes," he said.

There is no magic pill that solve traffic lines during the morning and evening commute, said Kalauskas.

"If you look at the big picture of what's going on in Arlington, there aren't that many throughways," he said.

Nonetheless, there are improvements, some not very

SEE CENTER, PAGE 12

Teamwork key to Dallin Museum expansion

History gallery opens Sunday

BY LES G. MASTERTON
STAFF WRITER

Artist Cyrus E. Dallin is known throughout the world for his Native American works, including "Appeal to the Great Spirit" which stands outside the Museum of Fine Arts and "Menotomy Hunter" in the Robbins Memorial Garden.

But now Cyrus Edwin Dallin Art Museum visitors will get to see the patriotic side of Arlington's most famous artist.

The museum opened a third gallery Sunday entitled "History

and Allegories." It joins the other two rooms: "Paul Revere," which reviews the story of Dallin's "Paul Revere" statue, which was finally erected near the Old North Church in Boston in 1940; and Dallin's "Family and Friends," which displays some of Dallin's favorite subjects.

The museum, located in the Jefferson Cutter House at the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Mystic Avenue since the fall of 1998, also unveiled a new piece in the Family and Friends gallery Sunday.

The Dallin Committee, with help from contributions and grants from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and distributed by the Arlington Arts Council, has restored the works in the muse-

um, including the newly opened gallery.

Museum Trustee Mark Hruby said Sunday that the museum inches closer to its goal of four galleries — the fourth being an exhibit of Native American art, for which Dallin is most recognized.

"Cyrus Dallin is not just an Arlington artist, but an American artist," said trustee David Formanek, noting Dallin's popularity around the world.

While known for his Native American artwork, Dallin is also admired widely for his works portraying patriotism, heroism, and dedication.

Some of the featured items in the newest gallery includes "Mine Eyes Have Seen The Glory," "Captured But Not Conquered," "End

of The Trail," "World War I Memorial," and the "Pilgrim Half Dollar." Trustees also developed panels that tell the story of the Robbins Memorial Flagstaff.

The town previously owned every item in the new gallery, except the Pilgrim Half Dollar, which was purchased. The coin was produced for the 300th anniversary of the Pilgrims landing in Plymouth.

"Mine Eyes Have Seen The Glory" and "Captured But Not Conquered" Deal with World War I. Dallin made the latter piece after the first American was captured in World War I. The former was produced following the return of American troops at the end of World War I, with Dallin's son

SEE DALLIN, PAGE 5

Historian looks back at town's milling past

BY LES G. MASTERTON
STAFF WRITER

Arlington historian Richard Duffy always wanted to bring the story of "The Tinkham Brothers' Tide-Mill" by J.T. Trowbridge to a wider audience.

The novel was first published by the famous Arlington author in 1882 and told the tale of brothers who buy a tide mill on the Tammoset River in the town of Tammoset, bordering the town of Dempford. The story actually was taken from the problems Benjamin Franklin Woods had with his tide mill in the mid-1800s and shows a time when Arlington — then known as West Cambridge — was a small mill town. The Dempford reference is to Med-

ford, while the Tammoset is a "corruption" of Menotomy, Arlington's name during the colonial era.

Duffy, who also wrote "Images of America: Arlington" in 1997, knew people would be interested in the novel.

"I read the story and I just fell in love with the story. It felt like traveling back in time," Duffy said.

Duffy wanted to re-publish the work, but acknowledged that it looked unfeasible since he knew that there would be plenty of red tape.

However, he also knew that it was published as a serial in the *St. Nicholas Magazine* from November 1882 to October 1883. *St-*

SEE MILLS, PAGE 17



COURTESY MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The B.F. Woods tide mill on the Mystic River in Arlington circa 1885. The mill was the inspiration for J.T. Trowbridge's novel "The Tinkham Brothers' Tide-Mill," which was recently republished by the Arlington Historical Society. The new release includes commentary by Arlington historian Richard Duffy.

INSIDE

communityclassifieds.com

Q. How do I know what I am worth?
A. See Ask the Experts in this week's *Communityclassifieds.com* section.

Film

David Brudnoy reviews new releases "Titus" and "Topsy-Turvy" this week.

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FOR THE RECORD

POLICE LOG

Selections from the Arlington police log for the week of Jan. 18-24:

Tuesday, Jan. 18

- At 7:34 a.m., police were sent to Town Cleaners & Tailors, 914 Massachusetts Ave., for a reported break-in. Officers noted the front glass window of the shop had been broken, and numerous items were reported taken, including a sewing machine, cash, a television, VCR, and numerous articles of clothing.

Wednesday, Jan. 19

- At 9:48 a.m., police were sent to a Massachusetts Avenue address to take an intoxicated, 31-year-old man into protective custody.
- At 11:16 a.m., a grove street resident reported the theft of a 1995 Jeep Wrangler.
- At 4:31 p.m., management at The Women's Exchange, 901 Massachusetts Ave., reported that an employee was selling merchandise far below the marked price. The management was advised to seek satisfaction through the courts.

Thursday, Jan. 20

- At 2:35 p.m., a Gardner Street resident reported a break-in and

the theft of cash and jewelry. There was no sign of forced entry.

Friday, Jan. 21

- At 5:55 p.m., a Victoria Road resident reported that a car window had been broken when a gust of wind forcefully blew a door shut.

- At 7:24 p.m., a motorist whose car was parked near the corner of Mill and Summer streets reported that a cell phone had been stolen from the unlocked vehicle.

Saturday, Jan. 22

- At 2:38 a.m., police were sent to a parking lot near Gardner Street to mediate a fight between boyfriend and girlfriend.

- At 11:53 a.m., a break-in through a window was reported at Rama Thai Cuisine, 1379 Massachusetts Ave.

Sunday, Jan. 23

- At 12:13 a.m., a Frost Street woman called police to report that her husband had beaten her up and fled in his work van. Arlington police are seeking criminal complaints against him for domestic assault-and-battery.

MEETINGS

Thursday, Jan. 27

- Town Day Committee meets at 9:30 a.m. and at 6 p.m. in the second floor of the Town Hall annex, 21 Academy St.

- The citizens' advisory committee to the town manager search meets at 6 p.m. in the first-floor meeting room of the Town Hall annex.

- Field and Playground Usage Task Force meets at 7:30 p.m. at Arlington Senior Center.

- Historic District Commission meets at 8 p.m. at Whittemore-Robbins House, 670 Massachu-

setts Ave., behind Robbins Memorial Library.

Monday, Jan. 31

- Board of Selectmen meets at 7:15 p.m. in the board's hearing room on the second floor of Town Hall, 730 Massachusetts Ave.

- Arlington's Finance Committee meets every Monday and Wednesday through March at 7:30 p.m. in the second-floor conference room of Community Safety Building, 112 Mystic St.

- Board of Assessors meets at 7:30 p.m. in the assessors' first-floor office in Town Hall.

The following is the arrest log for Arlington's police department for the week of Jan. 17-24.

Wednesday, Jan. 19

- At noon, police arrested Denis V. Kudriashov, 24, of 14 Grove St. #3, at his home. Kudriashov was taken into custody for having two outstanding warrants, both for motor-vehicle violations. The arresting officer was Officer Donald Brown.

Friday, Jan. 21

- At 11:30 a.m., police arrested Paula J. Nolte, 30, of 10 Old Colony Lane, at her home. Nolte's boyfriend had traveled to the police station to report that he had had a fight with his girlfriend, during which she had thrown a hard object at the back of his head and kicked him in the groin. Officers were sent to the couple's home, where they spoke with Nolte and discovered what they believed to be a small amount of marijuana. Nolte was arrested and charged with assault-and-battery

with a dangerous weapon and possession of marijuana. The arresting officer was Officer Frank Bourgeois.

- At 3:45 p.m., police arrested a 16-year-old girl at her home following a reported fight between the teen and her older sister. The younger girl had reportedly thrown a candle holder at her sister, hitting her in head. She was arrested and charged with assault-and-battery with a dangerous weapon. The arresting officer was Officer John Boyle.

- At 8:30 p.m., police arrested Wan Ki Kim, 61, of 61 Bates Road, at his home. Responding to a call from a driver on a cell phone, police officers began to follow Kim as he drove his van toward his home. According to police reports, Kim did not respond when several patrol cars turned on their lights and he drove erratically all the way to his house, where he crashed into his own garage door. He was given a sobriety test and then placed under

ARRESTS

arrest for drunken driving. The arresting officer was Officer Michael Flynn.

Saturday, Jan. 22

- At 4:45 p.m., police arrested Edward J. Redding, 37, of 112 Columbia Road, at his home. Redding was arrested following an altercation between he and an estranged girlfriend in Haverhill, where he allegedly got into a fight, kicked in her door, and hit her with a thrown picture frame. He was charged with malicious destruction of property, assault with a dangerous weapon and assault-and-battery, and taken to the Haverhill police station. The arresting officer was Officer Edward Savill.

Sunday, Jan. 23

- At 10:50 p.m., Framingham police arrested Donna M. Golden, 49, of 1550 Worcester St. in Framingham following a scene at the Community Safety Building, 112 Mystic St. According to the arrest report, Golden had a doctor-patient relationship with Arling-

ton resident Mark Santello. On Sunday, Golden reportedly parked in front of Santello's home and started following him as he drove away. The doctor drove to the Arlington police station, where both he and Golden appeared at the front desk. After Golden left, police took a statement from Santello and sought an arrest warrant. Golden was arrested in Framingham, charged with stalking, and taken to the Community Safety Building for processing.

Monday, Jan. 24

- At 3 a.m., police arrested James G. Temple Jr., 45, of 2 River St., after a traffic stop near 219 Massachusetts Ave. Temple was stopped for speeding and appeared to be drunk. He was given several sobriety tests (e.g., reciting the alphabet, balancing on one foot), after which he was arrested and charged with speeding, driving without a license and driving while intoxicated. The arresting officer was Officer Robert Bongiorno.

FIRE LOG

From the incident reports from the Arlington's fire department for the week of Jan. 17-23. During that period, the department responded to 102 calls, including 41 rescues, 21 investigations, and six fire alarms. References in this digest to "paramedics" denote two-medical teams from Armstrong Ambulances Services, a private Arlington-based ambulance company.

Tuesday, Jan. 18

- At 11:37 a.m., firefighters were sent to an apartment building at 1160 Massachusetts Ave., for basement flooding. Firefighters shut off the water and vacuumed up the water.

- At 5:44 p.m., a Lexington fire engine, covering an Arlington station during an Arlington house fire, was dispatched to Woodside Lane to extinguish a fire that apparently started with a faulty fax machine and caused \$6,000 in damage.

Friday, Jan. 21

- At 9:42 a.m., firefighters and EMTs were sent to a Rublee Street residence for a 76-year-old diabetic man who was complaining of weakness after not taking his medication. Noting the man's low blood-sugar, rescuers gave him sugar dis-

solved in orange juice and transported him to Winchester Hospital.

- At 3:01 p.m., firefighters and paramedics were sent to an Inverness Road home for a 42-year-old diabetic woman with low blood-sugar, found in a semi-conscious state on her couch. She was given glucose and taken with the paramedics to Winchester Hospital.

Saturday, Jan. 22

- At 6:52 a.m., firefighters were sent to the scene of a two-car accident near the intersection of Palmer Street and Broadway for a 17-year-old Somerville girl found sitting in one of the cars. She was conscious and alert, complaining of a bruised shin. She was taken to Mt. Auburn Hospital in Cambridge.

- At 1:02 p.m., rescuers were sent to a Cheswick Road residence for an 84-year-old woman suffering from hypothermia and dehydration who had reportedly been lying on her floor for four days. She was covered with blankets and taken to Winchester Hospital.

- At 9:15 p.m., firefighters were called to a report of natural-gas odor in the Appleton Street area. The found a faint odor of gas outside and called a repair crew from Boston Gas.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Event promotes unity

On Thursday evening, Jan. 27, the Faculty Dining room of Arlington High School will come to life in a new way as members from the high school community come together to share food and celebrate the differences and the unity of the community.

Guest speaker Janice Jackson of Boston College will lead the discussion, "Knowing ourselves so that we may better understand others."

Members of the high school

community, including family and friends, are invited to come to this potluck dinner and share a dish that serves at least four additional people. The dinner starts at 7 p.m. and the group discussion will begin promptly at 7:45 p.m.

Harpist

On Sunday, Jan. 30 at 3 p.m., renowned Viennese harpist and composer Monika Stadler returns to the Park Avenue Congregational Church Concert Series for an after-

- Redevelopment Board meets at 8 p.m. in the second-floor conference room of the Town Hall annex.

Tuesday, Feb. 1

- Arlington Historical Commission meets at 7:30 p.m. at Whittemore-Robbins House.

- Permanent Town Building Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. in the second-floor meeting room in the Town Hall annex.

Wednesday, Feb. 2

- Affordable Housing Task Force meets at 7 p.m. in the first-floor meeting room of the Town

Hall annex.

- Arlington's Finance Committee meets every Monday and Wednesday through March at 7:30 p.m. in the second-floor conference room of Community Safety Building, 112 Mystic St.

Thursday, Feb. 3

- Arlington's Conservation Commission meets at 7:30 p.m. in the second-floor meeting room of the Town Hall annex.

Sunday, Feb. 6

- Noise Abatement Study Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. at 65 Woodside Lane.

Correction

A story and a chart in the Jan. 20 edition of *The Advocate* ("Three candidates for School Committee," page 3) incorrectly reported the name of the incumbent member of the Board of Assessors up for reelection. That person is Kevin Feeley.

THE ARLINGTON ADVOCATE

(USPS 031-900)

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The Arlington Advocate is published weekly Thursday by Community Newspaper Company. Periodical postage paid at Concord, MA and additional mailing offices (CNC). Postmaster: Send address changes to *The Arlington Advocate*, Circulation Department, Box 9149, Framingham, MA 01701.

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TOWN ONLINE POLITICS

Get the latest news on the local and national political front, discuss the issues or e-mail your representative or senator. Town Online has completely redesigned its politics web site to create an interactive look at Massachusetts and national government and the race for the White House. Visit our site at: www.townonline.com/politics.

SEN. JOHN KERRY: TOWN ONLINE NETCAST



Town Online airs the Community Newspaper Co. interview of U.S. Sen. John Kerry. Watch the interview or listen to it with the RealPlayer, available for download off Town Online. Come join in our bulletin board discussion or write a letter to Town Online or to the senator. To see the Kerry interview, go to www.townonline.com/kerry.

GET CONNECTED

Free web sites for local groups are available through the Community Connections program at Community Newspaper Company.

Churches, marching bands and sports teams have used this program to join the World Wide Web.

Interested? Contact Deirdre O'Leary by e-mail at doleary@cnc.com or check out the program at www.townonline.com/community/registration.html

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Police nab thief after foot chase

BY DAN SHOHL
STAFF WRITER

Arlington police were busy Tuesday morning, recovering two stolen cars — before their owners even knew they were missing.

Police Sgt. James Curran was patrolling Hillside Avenue early Tuesday morning when he came upon a blue Volvo inching along through the neighborhood. He moved in for a closer look, suspecting mischief in the making.

"It was consistent with someone canvassing the area," he said.

As Curran pulled his cruiser in behind the car, he saw both front doors fly open. Two men jumped out and ran.

Back at Community Safety Building, police dispatchers John Greeley and Peter Cote worked to ascertain the owner of the 1989 Volvo. The computer link to the state Registry of Motor Vehicles was down, so the dispatchers worked the phones to determine the Volvo's owner. Curran praised the work of the dispatchers after the arrest.

Meanwhile, five police officers were searching the area for the two who had fled.

"We tried to get a K-9 unit from the State police," said Curran. "There were none available. We got the next best thing, [Officer Richard] Flynn, who is becoming known as a bloodhound anywhere."

Residents in the area began calling the police, reporting a man running through their backyards. Flynn apprehended Somerville resident Carlos Angel Lara, 18, near Wadsworth Road close to the Belmont line. The officer brought Lara back to Hillside Avenue, where Curran identified the man as the suspect and placed him under arrest.

"Flynn followed the footprints in the snow," he said. "He did a great job of locating the suspect."

The second person in the Volvo was never found, and police inspectors are continuing their investigation.

Police recovered the blue Volvo, which they determined had been stolen that morning from a Claremont Avenue home. They questioned Lara, expecting to learn about a second car theft.

"Whenever you have a stolen car recovered and two suspects flee, you wonder how they got out there," said Curran. "There's always another [car] in the area."

Lara directed police to a second car, a 1993 Honda Accord station wagon, which had been taken from Murray Street that morning.

Both cars were towed to Community Safety Building, 112 Mystic St., where the owners were called to identify and recover their vehicles.

"Both victims didn't even know that [their cars] were stolen yet," said Curran.

The arrest came after a series of car thefts and break-ins in the central and southwestern part of town. Many of the break-ins took place at unlocked cars, and several car thefts involved vehicles where the ignition key had been placed in the car. The Volvo was a case in point.

During patrol briefings in recent evenings, police shift commanders have been telling the officers to concentrate attention on residential neighborhoods during the middle of the night.

"We had taken a look at all these [break-ins], and try to identify all of the patterns," said Fred Ryan, director of the police department. "The only pattern we could identify was these were occurring in the early morning hours in a pretty wide residential area."

Ryan said it was too early in the investigation to determine if any other, similar break-ins or vehicle thefts might be linked to the suspect they apprehended. He said that people should be a little bit more careful with their parked cars.

"It's imperative that residents lock their unattended motor vehicles and not leave the ignition key any place where it might be readily available to the criminal suspect," he said.

Lara was charged with two counts of breaking-and-entering and two counts of motor-vehicle theft. Both offenses are felonies. He was arraigned Tuesday at Cambridge District Court and released. The conditions of his release were not available Wednesday, though the court did set a pre-trial hearing for Feb. 16, according to Ryan.

Lyons repays for mistake

BY DAN SHOHL
STAFF WRITER

The state Office of Campaign and Political Finance rapped the knuckles of Selectman Charles Lyons' re-election campaign last summer for improperly listing several campaign contributions during his spring re-election campaign.

After receiving an anonymous complaint and reviewing Lyons' finance records, the state office this summer issued a notice to Lyons, raising the concerns and asking for clarification.

Specifically, the Lyons campaign used phones at three Arlington businesses: Armstrong Ambulance Services, Bowes Realty, and the law offices of Keshian & Reynolds. On his finance reports, Lyons listed almost \$600 worth of calls as "in-kind" contributions to his campaign for the phone use.

Massachusetts does not allow

corporations to make any sort of contributions to political campaigns. The value of the phone use should have been considered a loan to the campaign.

Lyons quickly repaid the value of the phone use to the three companies, to the satisfaction of both the campaign-finance office and the candidate himself. No further action was necessary, according to the state office's letter to Lyons.

"We modified [the report], and I paid it back," said Lyons.

The ruling was noted in the most recent quarterly newsletter of the Office of Campaign and Political Finance.

"This case is closed for us," said Denis Kennedy, spokesman for the campaign-finance office. "This issues raised here are very common in municipal elections. Some are more minor than others. The largest issue here was the corporate contributions, which was easily corrected."

Parked cars, blowers made plowing difficult

BY DAN SHOHL
STAFF WRITER

When forecasts of Tuesday's impending snow storm came in, Town Hall had a two-part plan in place.

Town Manager Donald Marquis and Richard Bento, director of the Department of Public Works, had DPW trucks and private contractors lay down a sprinkling of salt and sand before the flakes fall. With that ready layer in place, plowing is easier and the work more efficient, said Marquis.

"You cannot let the storm get ahead of you," he said. The town manager added that he was pleased with the results when the snow finally hit.

"It was excellent," said Marquis on Wednesday. "I put on my field commander's hat yesterday and made sure we had sanded and salted all of the hills before the snow started, so they would be ready to plow."

Snow crews showed up to work at 5 a.m., just as the first snow started to fall.

The DPW deployed a fleet of 23 trucks and sanders. During a snow storm, that force is augmented by private contractors. On Tuesday, the town also employed 32 private trucks to beef up the response.

The sanders and plows did run into a couple of problems, said Bento. Morning and afternoon traffic slowed the work of the big trucks. The DPW had the easiest time working between 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and after 6 p.m.



STAFF PHOTO BY MARC VASCONCELLOS

Frank Callahan of Arlington holds an ice fishing trap before placing it into Horn Pond in Woburn. Tuesday's snow storm and freezing temperatures made it great weather for ice fish. But Arlington residents throwing and blowing snow into the street compounded the difficulty for plowing.

Bento also said homeowners using snow-blowers to throw snow from their driveways into the street are creating a safety hazard. The blown snow collects and hardens in patches.

"Patches of snow become patches of ice," he said.

He asked that residents using snow-blowers direct the blast onto their lawns, away from the street.

There was also the trouble of

navigating snow plows through streets where cars are parked on the road. Some streets required multiple visits from plows when parked cars are in the way.

"Parked cars are still a difficult logistical problem for us," he said.

Bento reported that Arlington had six to eight inches of snowfall Tuesday, with the deepest snow in the higher parts of town. He said the town

spent approximately \$35,000 on clearing the streets Thursday out of the \$125,000 remaining in the snow-and-ice removal budget. Paying for future storms is not expected to be a problem, as all towns in Massachusetts are allowed by statute to spend more than they appropriate for snow removal, making up the difference the next fiscal year.

Candidates for April election

The following residents have taken out nomination papers for the April 1 election.

Board of Selectmen

*Jack Hurd
*Kathleen Kiely Dias

School Committee

*Dennis Sullivan
*David McKenna
George Plandes

Housing Authority

*Freeland Abbott

Board of Assessors

*Kevin Feeley

*Incumbents

Here is a list of important dates for residents:

* Monday, Feb. 7 — Last day

for Town Meeting members who are candidates for reelection to give written notice that they are running.

* Thursday, Feb. 10 — Last day for obtaining blank nomination papers.

* Monday, Feb. 14 — Last day for submitting all nomination papers to the registrars of voters for certification of signatures.

* Monday, Feb. 28 — Last day for filing nomination papers with the town clerk.

* Wednesday, March 1 — Last day for filing withdrawals of and/or objections to all nomination papers.

* Friday, March 10 — Last day to register voters for the town election.

* Saturday, April 1 — Annual Town Election.

Mediation scheduled for fired police officers

A date has been set for a meeting with a mediator to explore a settlement of termination appeals and civil rights claims stemming from the actions of fired Arlington police officer Richard Jenkins.

In July, Town Manager Donald Marquis fired two police officers, Jennifer McGurl and Daniel Kelly, asserting that they tried to cover up the action of Jenkins' involvement in a "peeping tom" incident at the home of the Madigan family in East

Arlington. The family filed a civil rights claim against the town following the incident, and McGurl and Kelly have appealed their firings. Earlier this month, all parties agreed to explore the possibility of privately settling their appeals and claims.

Lawyers for the two former officers, the town, and the Madigan family will meet on Feb. 2 in Boston at a meeting mediated by Francis O'Connor, a retired justice of the state's Supreme Judicial Court.

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Wednesday, Feb. 2, 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

and

Thursday, Feb. 3, 9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

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ARTS

A true Hollywood story with a happy ending

Park Circle native a movie mogul

BY SUSAN DANSEYAR
STAFF WRITER

When Alan Blomquist was a boy growing up on Park Circle, he didn't give much thought to the movies.

Of course, he went to see all the action and adventure films that most kids his age, but, he said, like every boy growing up in Arlington, what he really liked was playing baseball, hanging around Robbins Park, and building forts in Menotomy Rocks Park.

"Who knew about the movie business?" Blomquist

asked, explaining that when he was a child everyone he knew had a "straight" job like his father, Robert Blomquist, who was the town's Fire Chief in the late-1960s and early-1970s.

"We liked going to the movies, but we certainly never thought about how they were made," he said.

Today, Blomquist devotes his life to thinking about how movies are made. The executive producer for "Cider House Rules," which began its national run in early January, he has amassed an impressive slate of projects such as being the executive producer of "What Dreams May Come" with Robin Williams, "A Little Princess," "Beautiful Girls," "Of Mice and Men," "Guilty by Suspicion," and "Everybody's All American."

Currently a resident of Los Angeles, Blomquist said he is committed to producing films with mainstream appeal and social impact. Among the projects he is working on now are "The Greatest Love of All," the true story of songwriter Linda Creed, a woman who wrote soul classics "You Make Me Feel Brand New" and "The Greatest Love of All" while battling breast cancer; "Nights Like This," a romantic comedy about a museum curator and her encounter with the

ghost of a knight from the 12th century; and "Unfinished Business," a gangland picture set in the mean streets of Chicago.

Just a few weeks ago, Blomquist finished his work as executive producer of "Bounce," but he's still thinking about "Cider House Rules," a movie which he said is a "10."

"They're talking Academy Awards," Blomquist said of the soothsayers in the industry. "It's a quintessentially well-realized

movie; the acting is stellar, the production values are wonderful. The whole experience was tremendous."

Based on John Irving's novel, "Cider

House Rules" stars Michael Caine, Tobey Maguire, Chazelle Theron, Paul Rudd, Kathy Baker, and Delroy Lindo. It is the story of a young man, Homer Wells (played by Maguire), who grew up in an orphanage run by a doctor (played by Caine).

Blomquist worked on the movie for just over a year, traveling with the cast and production crew to New England for six months to film in Northampton, Lenox, Bar Harbor, Maine, and Brattleboro, Vt. "For the last 22 years, I've been living in LA under protest," he joked. "There's no history out here and I miss New England, miss seeing my family who live in the Boston area."

But L.A., where he lives with his 13-year-old twin sons, Sam and Will, is where the work is for people in Blomquist's business.

As an executive producer, Blomquist said his job is very much like building a house. Someone else raises the money for a movie and he takes the script, looks at how much it will cost to produce, makes a schedule and budget and then "makes the plan come to life."

Sometimes it sounds like a glamorous life and, indeed, Blomquist said, it is at times because he travels all over the world and people treat him well



Former Arlington resident Alan Blomquist (right) with Charles Carner, director of "Vanishing Point." Blomquist has been the executive producer of a number of films, including "Cider House Rules," which is currently in theaters.

simply because of the nature of his work. "But, ultimately, it's just a job," he said. "You work long hours and you often have to be away from your family for long periods of time."

Being an executive producer is a far cry from Blomquist's early plans after graduating from Arlington High School in 1971. He declined an appointment to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis to attend the University of Michigan and study chemical engineering. "Within a year, I was protesting the draft and became very disillusioned

with my major," he said. "I went from being a very good student to barely surviving."

He changed his major to premed, but hated that and ultimately dropped out of school. He took a variety of odd jobs and took some night courses, one of which was in 8 mm filmmaking. "As part of the class, I made a movie about a sailor who came home on leave and the adventures he had," he said. "I loved it and, from then on, I had the bug."

Blomquist enrolled in the University of Michigan's Art

School and graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in film. For several years, Blomquist worked as a carpenter and then moved to L.A. to try and work his way into the movie industry. He didn't know a soul and his first job was selling tickets at a movie theatre.

In 1977, "Foul Play" was filmed at the theatre where he landed a job as a production assistant, work which Blomquist said was really just being a gopher. But he had an opportunity to be on a set where he met Goldie Hawn and Chevy Chase.

What followed was a few more years of hustling, meeting people and working for free, if necessary. After two years, he said he began to get jobs. He served in a lot of roles including as a "grip" which is a specialized carpenter who rigs the lights and moves them around a set. Eventually, Blomquist worked as the first assistant director on the action/adventure film "Iron Eagle" and the unit production manager on "La Bamba."

"It was an unusual path," Blomquist said. "But I was committed to being a filmmaker."

ARTS NOTES

Literary

Winter Writers & Poets Series presents Joseph Gustafson, poet, and Steven Stathis, novelist, who read selections from their works 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 10 at the Community Room of the Robbins Library, 700 Massachusetts Ave. Sponsored by Arlington Center for the Arts. Free; donations accepted. Wheelchair accessible.

Youth art scholarship program

Talented art students at the Ottonson Middle School and at Arlington High School will receive scholarship awards to select Arlington Center for the Arts programs and classes. Designed to help students prepare their portfolios for both art colleges and fine arts departments of universities, the program is designed for 13- to 18-year-olds who are recommended by their art teachers. Students would receive guidance in preparing their portfolios and experience in specific art media such as silversmithing and casting, clay sculpture, printmaking, and oil, acrylic, encaustic, and egg tempera media. Additional benefits for public school students include: exposure to active professional artists in the community who can provide mentoring and

with the art program at the Arlington junior and senior high schools and funded by a grant from the Arlington Arts Council.

ARLINGTON CENTER FOR THE Arts



serve as role models, individual and group critiques to aid students in evaluating strengths; and strengthening of student portfolios through exposure to a broad range of media and their applications. This program is in partnership

Arts grant

To help support the center's December Arts Camp participation in the First Night Parade, the First Night organization granted the arts center \$350. One of the few arts centers from the Northwest metropolitan area to march in the annual event, this winter's group investigated Caribbean cultures, made puppets and decorated small wearable islands to carry as they marched.

The Arlington Arts Council awarded the Arlington Center for the Arts grants for several new programs. An additional award of \$1200 was given to ACA for a partnership program with Arlington Public Junior High And High Schools and Arlington Catholic High School to offer programs for and mentor students interested in professional art careers. Finally, the Arts Council allotted \$3000 to support the costs of next fall's Arlington Open Studios. To be coordinated by the Arlington Center for the Arts, The Open Studios event will be town-wide and open to all Arlington artists.

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Depression Study

Dr. Jonathan Cole is conducting a research study at McLean Hospital in Belmont, Massachusetts to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of an extract of St. John's Wort in the treatment of major depression. This study is sponsored by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Individuals who are experiencing depressive symptoms may be eligible for this study.

Symptoms of clinical depression may include:

- Sad, unhappy, empty, or helpless feelings
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- Loss of interest or pleasure in usual activities



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Volunteers produce a third reason to attend the Dallin Museum

■ **DALLIN**, FROM PAGE 1
Arthur as the subject.

"End of the Trail" is a plaster relief that depicts the Pioneer Mother Movement in Utah. The work honors the women of the Mormon wagon trains, who arrived in Utah from Missouri in the 1850s. Dallin was interested in this subject for a personal reason — his parents met on one of the trains from Kansas City to Salt Lake City in 1851.

Robert-Bolo-Elisha

In addition to the new gallery, Elisha and Elizabeth Atkins of Belmont donated a Dallin piece entitled "Robert-Bolo-Elisha," which the artist produced in 1923. The subjects are 4-old-year Elisha; 9-year-old Robert, Elisha's brother; and their dog, Bolo.

The Atkins and a few of Dallin's descendants were in attendance Sunday for the unveiling. Elisha Atkins said it is "great to be immortalized." His parents were friends of the Dallins, as well as the Robbins sisters. Elisha Atkins said his mother, who was from Arlington, would be happy with the piece's new home.

"We couldn't have found a nicer place for this to reside," he said of the piece.

Elisha's wife, Elizabeth, agreed. "It looks a lot better than when it

was in our cellar," she said.

Since the Atkins donated the piece, volunteers have restored the work. The trustees' chairman emeritus Jim McGough said it was fitting that the museum added a new gallery and artwork Sunday. It was only two days from the 16th anniversary of the Arts Council asking the Board of Selectmen to gather and restore all of the Dallin works in the town's possession.

"It's bits and pieces, but our third gallery is now open," said McGough of the museum's progress.

Volunteer spirit

Trustees and volunteers were quick to point out Sunday that everything about the Dallin Art Museum is a team effort.

"It's the spirit of volunteerism," said Hruby. "The more you put into it, the more you benefit. I've learned so much from this experience and met interesting people I would not have met if I wasn't involved."

While Hruby's expertise is graphic art, trustee David Formanek spent countless hours researching the story behind the Robbins Memorial Flagstaff. He also made the display base for one of the new pieces.

Meanwhile, trustee chairperson Geraldine Tremblay, a teacher

at Arlington High School, is fluent in Latin, which helps with reading some art work. Tremblay also praised master carpenter Michael Goode. "Without his expertise, we would not look as good as we do," Tremblay said.

Lack of space

With so many items, the Dallin Committee views the Jefferson Cutter House as a temporary home. Trustees hope to move to another location in Arlington in a few years, after the fourth gallery is opened and they embark on major fundraising campaign. Tremblay believes the larger venue will allow trustees to make the museum more interesting to students and manageable for large groups. Tremblay added that a large museum could include more historical information to work alongside Dallin's pieces on the American Revolution and Native American history.

"I would like for all children who attend school in Arlington to have a tour of this museum and offer them some literature so they know the works of Cyrus Dallin and learn about the American Revolution at the same time. We can do this [in a larger facility], but we can't now because of this space," Tremblay said.

However, the museum cannot



STAFF PHOTO BY LES MASTERSON

Elisha and Elizabeth Atkins of Belmont donated a Dallin piece entitled "Robert-Bolo-Elisha," which the artist produced in 1923. The subjects are 4-old-year Elisha; 9-year-old Robert, Elisha's brother; and their dog, Bolo. Above, Elizabeth Atkins stands by the piece after its unveiling.

stay open longer than the noon to 4 p.m. schedule and welcome large groups of children, unless more volunteers join the muse-

um staff. If you are interested, you can call Gerry Ricci at 646-3553.

The Cyrus E. Dallin Art Museum is open daily from noon to 4 p.m. Admission is free.

Mahon looks to review town manager position

■ **REVIEW**, FROM PAGE 1

change, allowing Town Meeting to alter the "duties, responsibilities, and appointing powers" of the town's chief executive, who directs all municipal spending and hundreds of public employees.

"That could be too much responsibility," she said. "Maybe we need to define it a little [differently]."

"It's not a comment, negative or positive, that I'm questioning the Town Manager Act. It's a discussion."

Making such changes would require an affirmative vote of Arlington's Town Meeting, the state Legislature, and a town-wide election.

There are two ways that an article can end up on the Town Meeting warrant. The Board of Selectmen can put an article on the warrant, either by vote or by informal consensus. In the past, there has been occasions when a selectman has added an article without a formal vote of the board, said Town Counsel John Maher. A formal vote is more typical, he said.

Any resident can submit one, as long as it bears the signatures of 10 registered voters and comes in before the deadline, which was 5

p.m. Monday.

Mahon had already gathered a voters' petition to put her article into the warrant. The question was whether it should appear as an article sponsored by the Board of Selectmen. Two selectmen, Charles Lyons and Kevin Greeley, thought it should not. When they learned of Mahon's proposal, the selectmen quickly called a special meeting for Monday, one hour before the deadline for regular petitioners to put articles on the warrant.

Selectmen Jack Hurd and Kathleen Kiely Dias took pains to point out that voting to place Mahon's article on the warrant did not mean the board would recommend it. They supported Mahon's request.

"What we're doing here is not arguing the merits of articles," said Hurd, who is chairman of the board. "We're voting whether it is appropriate to insert articles as sponsored by the Board of Selectmen ... or by 10 registered voters."

'It's not a comment, negative or positive, that I'm questioning the Town Manager Act. It's a discussion.'

DIANE MAHON
SELECTMAN

warrant allows any Town Meeting member to craft their own changes to the town manager's authority.

Lyons said if anybody wanted to change the basic powers and duties of the Town Manager, they should form a special commission to study, develop, and vote recommended changes. Dropping it into the middle of Town Meeting to begin a discussion was reckless, he said.

"This [article] goes to the basis of our form of government," he said. "I think it's a damaging precedent for this board. To put the article in ourselves, in my judgement, is a very bad thing to do."

Mahon suggested that Lyons was being hypocritical. Lyons has

added his own warrant article this year seeking to amend the Town Manager Act, a measure asking Town Meeting to consider changing the "qualifications, manner or term of employment or compensation" of Arlington's chief executive, also in anticipation of Marquis' replacement.

"I kind of felt ... that I was being unfairly criticized," said Mahon after the meeting.

Greeley said the two measures were not the same, neither in scope nor the manner they were developed.

"Mr. Lyons' [proposals] were all things we discussed as a board," he said.

In the end, the board voted to place both Lyons' and Mahon's Town Manager articles on the warrant. Lyons' was approved unanimously, Mahon's on a vote of 3-2, with Greeley and Lyons dissenting.

The selectmen will hold public hearings on the warrant articles at a later meeting, at which they will vote on whether or not to recommend the articles to Town Meeting. Also at a later meeting, the board will decide if it needs a formal policy about voting on warrant articles proposed by individual selectmen.

CAPITOL THEATRE

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Ending Thursday, Jan. 27
• TUMBLEWEEDS (PG-13)
1:30, 3:30, 5:35, 7:45, 10:00
• ANNA AND THE KING (PG-13) 2:45, 5:45, 8:45
• MAN ON THE MOON (R) 5:15, 7:40, 10:10

Friday, Jan. 28
• SWEET AND LOWDOWN (PG-13) 1:30, 3:30, 5:35, 7:45, 10:00
• ANY GIVEN SUNDAY (R) 12:55, 4:15, 7:40
• DOGMA (R) 4:40, 7:15, 9:50
• BICENTENNIAL MAN (PG) 2:00

• MANSFIELD PARK (PG-13) 2:05, 4:55, 7:20, 9:40
• AMERICAN BEAUTY (R) 2:20, 5:00, 7:25, 9:55
• BEING JOHN MALKOVICH (R) 4:45, 7:05, 9:30
• POKEMON: THE FIRST MOVIE (G) 12:50, 2:45

Saturday & Sunday, Jan. 29 & 30
• SWEET AND LOWDOWN (PG-13) 11:35, 1:30, 3:30, 5:35, 7:45, 10:00

• ANY GIVEN SUNDAY (R) 12:55, 4:15, 7:40
• DOGMA (R) 4:40, 7:15, 9:50
• BICENTENNIAL MAN (PG) 11:30, 2:00

• MANSFIELD PARK (PG-13) 11:40, 2:05, 4:55, 7:20, 9:40
• AMERICAN BEAUTY (R) 11:50, 2:20, 5:00, 7:25, 9:55
• BEING JOHN MALKOVICH (R) 4:45, 7:05, 9:30
• POKEMON: THE FIRST MOVIE (G) 12:50, 2:45

Monday through Thursday, Jan. 31-Feb. 3
• SWEET AND LOWDOWN (PG-13) 1:30, 3:30, 5:35, 7:45, 10:00

• ANY GIVEN SUNDAY (R) 12:55, 4:15, 7:40
• DOGMA (R) 4:40, 7:15, 9:50
• BICENTENNIAL MAN (PG) 2:00

• MANSFIELD PARK (PG-13) 2:05, 4:55, 7:20, 9:40
• AMERICAN BEAUTY (R) 2:20, 5:00, 7:25, 9:55
• BEING JOHN MALKOVICH (R) 4:45, 7:05, 9:30
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Legislation affects widows

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LEARNING

SCHOOL NOTES

Hardy student wins geography bee

Adam Silva, a fifth-grade student at the Hardy School, has won the school-level competition of the National Geography Bee and a chance at a \$25,000 college scholarship.

Other finalists competing in the Hardy bee were Samatha Mallard, Maya Mahin, Victoria Sarkissian, Kyle Boudreau, Lauren Donnellan, Margaret Clayton, Kristina Brooks, Cory Bandouveres, and Alexandra Carver.

Thousands of students throughout the United States and in five U.S. territories are participating. The school winners, including Silva, will now take a written test. As many as 100 of the top scorers in each state and territory will compete in state bees, to be held April 7.

For the 12th year, the National Geographic Society is sponsoring the competition, held throughout the Arlington public schools. Students in the fourth through the eighth grades participated. Those who successfully complete the first rounds advance to the next level, a written exam.

All school winners are eligible to win the first prize, a \$25,000 college scholarship, at the national competition May 23 and 24 in Washington, D.C. Alex Irebek, host of the TV game show "Jeopardy!," will moderate May 24.

Get a look at the new Dallin tonight

The Dallin community has a chance to learn about the plans for a rebuilt Dallin at 7 p.m., tonight, Thursday, Jan. 27, at the school auditorium. Representatives from the architect for the new school, Drummey, Roscane & Anderson of Newton, will be on hand.

Other Dallin events:

- The Student Council is scheduled to have its Scooper Bowl Sundae socials on Friday, Jan. 28, at 1:30 p.m., at the school.

- The next bottle-and-can drive will be Monday, Jan. 31 and Tuesday, Feb. 1.

- Girl Scout quilt project: In early March, Brownie troop 1054 and Daisy troop 1062 will hold a bee to make quilts for Project Linus, an organization that collects and distributes the quilts to critically ill and homeless children at various Boston area hospitals and shelters. The girls are looking for fabric, fabric crayons or markers, batting, and thread from members of the community.

Kindergarten



One of the many quilt squares that make up the Stratton School family diversity quilt.

orientations for parents

The following information is for parents of incoming kindergartners and new students. Parents will have the opportunity to ask questions about the school's curriculum and activities, as well as meet with teachers and other parents. Other schools will be included as information is received.

HARDY:

Wednesday, Feb. 9, 7 to 8:30 p.m., Room 23, Hardy, 52 Lake St. Any child born in 1995 is eligible to enter kindergarten in 2000-2001. Bring your blue registration form. Speakers will include current kindergarten teachers Mrs. Galluzzo, Mrs. Hoey, and Mrs. Sullivan; reading teacher Mrs. Driscoll; and Principal Barbara Fischer Long. If you have not received a packet, call 641-5424.

PEIRCE:

Wednesday, Feb. 9, 7 to 8:30 p.m., Peirce School, 85 Park Ave. Ext. Further information: 641-5446.

BISHOP:

Thursday, Feb. 17 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Stratton School auditorium, 180 Mountain Ave. Information about registering for the 2000-2001 academic year has been mailed to all children who live in the Bishop School district. If you have not received a packet, call the school office at 641-5407.



Hardy School geography bee finalists.

DALLIN:

Thursday, March 2, from 1 to 4, at the school, 185 Florence Ave. Registration packets will be mailed to anyone who the school knows is planning to register. Information: 641-5413.

THOMPSON:

Wednesday, March 15, from 6:30-8 p.m. at the school, 70 N. Union St. Additional registration from 9 to 11 a.m. March 16. Bring child's birth certificate, Social Security number and proof of Arlington residency (e.g., utility bill, rent receipt, etc.). Snow date March 22 and 23. Children who are 5 by Dec. 31, 2000, are eligible for kindergarten. If you have a child who is eligible and did not receive a registration packet in January, call Mrs. Annis or Principal Michael McCabe at 641-5467.

Pot-luck, lecture at AHS Jan. 27

Janice E. Jackson, who teaches at the Boston College School of Education, is scheduled to speak at a pot-luck and lecture at Arlington High School on Thursday, Jan. 27.

The pot-luck is set to begin at 7 p.m., with the speaker starting about 8. The specific location is the teachers' lounge, also known as faculty dining room.

The title of the talk is "Knowing Ourselves to Know Others Better." Ms. Jackson specializes in educational leadership and conflict resolution.

Her positions have included deputy superintendent, Boston public schools; and acting assistant secretary, U.S. Department of Education. She is a doctoral candidate in Harvard University's urban superintendents program.

The snow date for the event is Tuesday, Feb. 1. Sponsors are student Vision 2020 group, the International Club, the Peer Mediation center, Metco and the Vision 2020 Diversity Task Group.

Forum on curriculum Feb. 3

The second of three educational forums for parents of children attending Arlington public schools — this one focusing on the state-required curriculum known as the "frameworks" — is scheduled for Feb. 3.

The forum, part of the Parent Education Forum Series: 1999-2000, is "Frameworks Curriculum Panel for Parents and Children, kindergarten through grade 5." It is scheduled for 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 3, at the Brackett School.

Arlington public school educators — teachers, principals and administrators — have been busy aligning curriculum with new state standards. Come and learn how the curriculum is being developed and adapted in eight content areas (English and language arts, mathematics, social science and history, science and technology engineering, the arts, foreign language and health).

The evening format will start with short presentations by department heads followed by a question-and-answer period. Moderated by Joanne Gurry, assistant superintendent for curriculum.

A math forum, postponed because of snow Jan. 13, has not yet been rescheduled. "Relearning Arithmetic: The Investigations Curriculum for Parents and Children," for parents of children in kindergarten through fifth grade, was to have been held at the Ottoson Middle School cafeteria. The presenter will be Joanne Fleming, math department and teacher trainer, Arlington public schools. Once rescheduled, the event is expected to include math resource books available for purchase.

Information: Cindy Bouvier, Arlington public schools' health

education department (316-3570).

Metco night at Peirce Jan. 28

The appearance of a former Metco student and an essay contest highlight plans for the Peirce Family Metco and Pasta Night on Friday, Jan. 28 at 7:30 in the school cafeteria.

Haave Walters, a Peirce School Metco alumni who is attending Salem State College, will speak about his experiences in Arlington. One hundred people are expected to attend.

The night is a second key event this school year aiming to involve Metco families and the Peirce community. Last October, Peirce families traveled to Metco headquarters in Roxbury for a dinner.

The results of a diversity essay contest will be featured at the dinner. Peirce children have been encouraged to write about how having a racially diverse school is important or fun for them. Contest winners will be invited to read their thoughts at pasta night.

Drawings with a diversity theme are also sought and are expected to be on display Jan. 28.

Rob Rice, head of food services for Arlington public schools, is providing the manicotti dinner at cost, and Metco is paying the bill.

Chefs Donna Gaeta and Sharon Malone, Peirce parents and food-service employees, are providing the third essential ingredient — the keys to the Peirce kitchen. Without their volunteer help, we could not hold the event at school.

Peirce parents will contribute homemade desserts.

All this help, has allowed the event coordinators, Laura Forsythe, kindergarten teacher and Peirce Advisory Council member, and parent Kate Cubeta to focus on dropping the "torium" from the cafeteria, so to speak, to create an Italian cafe atmosphere.

As a follow-up to the dinner in Roxbury last October, called Metcofest, the Peirce School Advisory Council conceived the pasta night to further involve Metco families in social occasions. Metco will provide bus service from its headquarters for Boston families. Children in the Metco program will be invited to stay in Arlington with school friends and meet up later with their families at pasta night.

Library volunteers at Brackett

Library volunteers will meet to help with cataloging on Wednesday, Feb. 2. Come any time between 8:20 and 11:40 a.m. Sign up with the librarians for other times.

An open meeting of the Brackett PTO will convene in the library 7 to 9 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 2. The PTO will be planning the music, art and physical education parent forum.

Stratton newsletter needs help

The Stratton Scene, the school's newsletter, is an all-parent operation, funded by a grant from Steve Savarese of Century 21 and the PTO, but it needs some help. Two parents take turns putting out the Scene (Lisa Deeley-Smith and Janice Flinn Powers). They could use a third. Deeley Smith is willing to coach any motivated parent. If you'd like to help, contact Lisa at 641-1011 (home), 643-3024 (work), or by e-mail at Smith196@aol.com.

Diversity-quilt patches due

A reminder to all Stratton families that the quilt squares for the Stratton family diversity quilt will be collected in a box at the school office. Each family is asked to contribute a felt square that reflects its own identity and uniqueness. Questions: Annie LaCourt (641-2918) or Ellen Duranceau (646-9111).

Other Stratton news:

- A special round of applause to two Stratton geography-bee finalists, Thomas Reidy and Cecille Avila. Cecille was eligible to take the written test, which will go to the state level of competition.

- Stratton School librarian Pat Buckley is pleased to announce that, as of Jan. 21, the Reading 2000 for 2000 goal has not only been reached; it has been surpassed. In this reading program, with its theme of "Reading Opens the World," each student has been encouraged to contribute to this goal by reading regularly and reporting back to Mrs. Buckley. Stay tuned for more information about a new school-wide goal, and keep on reading.

- In time for the cold weather and flu season, Stratton PTO is offering insulated coffee mugs and sport bottles as a fund raiser. Both are imprinted with the Stratton name. Mugs are \$5 and sport bottles are \$3, and all proceeds from their sale benefit Stratton PTO programs. To order, fill out a form from the fund-raising box at the school office or call Chris Stueve (643-8466). Upcoming fund raisers include a Yankee Candle sale and the annual Stratton ice-skating party.

- Stratton has assembled a booklet of sample MCAS questions for parents and students to examine. It's in the school library; ask librarian Mrs. Pat Buckley for assistance.

- Dates to remember: Thursday, Feb. 3, Cub Scout Pack 305 Pinewood Derby weigh-in and time trials; Wednesday, Feb. 9, derby final check-in; Saturday, Feb. 12, derby at First Baptist Church of Arlington, 819 Mass. Ave.

Bishop marks 50th year in many ways

In recognition of the 50th-anniversary year of the Bishop School, the school community is marking the occasion all year by recognizing children and staff birthdays each month, planning a recognition assembly on April 27 at the Stratton School auditorium and by selling bears.

The PTO is sponsoring the sale of a Bishop Bear, a plush, soft toy. To order, send a \$10 check (made payable to Bishop School PTO) to Bishop School PTO, c/o Stratton School, 180 Mountain Ave., Arlington 02474. Information: 641-5407.

Events at Thompson

- Chess Club is schedule to start again Monday, Jan. 31. It meets every other Monday from 4-5 p.m. and will end March 14.

- School-Linked Services was awarded a small grant by the Arlington Educational Enrichment Fund. The project is to paint a mural on the concrete storage shed in the courtyard. Local artist Pam Shandily is planning with a group of Thompson students. The shed is scheduled for painting in May.

School news

One way to tell the public news about your school is to tell Bob Sprague, communication specialist for Arlington public schools. E-mail school-related items of interest to bsprague@rcn.com or call 641-4490. He can also post items on the town's Web site, at: <http://www.town.arlington.ma.us/>. The site will report weather-related Arlington public school closings.

Grants for Dallin students

In February, Dallin students will have an opportunity to create a project and apply for a grant to fund a project through KidsEnergy. This year the KidsEnergy program is funded through a generous allocation from the Dallin PTO. The projects, intended to be supplemental to the school's curriculum, can be in any area of interest to the student applicant.

If your Dallin student has a great idea for a project and would like to apply for a grant, please call Mrs. Lauren Jastremski at Cyrus E. Dallin Elementary School for more information on how to get a grant application. More information on the KidsEnergy Program can also be found on-line at www.kidsenergy.org.

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Arlington High School

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Before they head off to Italy, The Madrigal Singers and Honors Orchestra will perform music from their upcoming tour at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 4 in the Lowe Auditorium in Arlington High School.

Science and Math Day provides many activities

Parents and teachers from Arlington's schools are hosting the Family Science and Math Day on Sunday, Feb. 13 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Boys and Girls Club. There will be a wide array of free hands-on activities designed for grades K-5 for families to experience.

Over 40 activities, many with take-home materials, focus on sinking and floating, chemistry, balancing and weights, structures, organisms, number sense, geometry and measurements, patterns, human body systems, electricity and magnetism, and earth science. Volunteers to help run activities should call organizers Mona Zefel at (781) 648-8512 and Andrea Gwosdow (781) 646-4251.

This science and math day is the first of three events being developed by the Parent Involvement Project (PIP). Arlington's PIP focuses on involving parents in their children's math, science, and technology education. Research has shown a strong correlation between student performance and their parents' involvement in their education. After this science and math day, an event for middle and high school stu-

dents and preschool story hours with math and science themes will be planned. Watch for announcements about when and where these events will be presented. These PIP events help parents support their children's education by having families participate in hands-on math, science, and technology activities.

The Arlington PIP is funded by a grant from PALMS (Partnerships Advancing the Learning of Mathematics, Science, and Technology) which is a cooperative initiative between the National Science Foundation and the Massachusetts Department of Education. Additional support comes from CESAME (Center for the Enhancement of Science and Mathematics Education) and the Arlington Partners in Education. The parents and teachers of Arlington's PIP are led by Judi Bohn (e-mail address jbohn@arlington.k12.ma.us), Arlington's Volunteer Coordinator. The Arlington PIP welcomes all parents of students in Arlington. The project seeks the support and involvement of the business and professional community of Arlington. For more information about Arlington's PIP, call Judi Bohn at (781) 316-3573.

Peirce commemorates milestone with clothing

Clothing featuring the Peirce Pride logo celebrating the Peirce School's 75th anniversary is being offered for sale through the Peirce PTO through February 5. The clothing features a special design created by Peirce parent and graphic artist Jan Streitberger includes the slogan "showing pride for 75 years" and appears in red on gray cloth.

Clothing available in youth (S, M, L), adult (S, M, L), and 2X, sizes includes: * T-shirts for \$8.50 * Crew-neck sweatshirts for \$16.00 * Hooded pullover sweatshirts for \$21.00 * Sweat pants for \$16.00 * Long-sleeved T-shirts for \$10.00 * Nylon jackets (red with white logo) for \$23.00 Please note that youth sizes cost \$1.00 less than prices are \$2.00 more. To place an order, send a list of the items you would like along with your

phone number, address, and payment (checks made to Peirce PTO) to the Peirce School, 85 Park Ave. Ext., Arlington 02474. For additional information, please call 781-646-3976. Clothing will be delivered in 4 to 6 weeks.

Peirce collects boxtops for education

The Peirce School is participating in the General Mills Boxtops for Education program to raise funds for the PTO through collection of boxtops from General Mills cereals and other products. Community members who would like to donate their boxtops to Peirce can send them to the Peirce School PTO, 85 Park Ave. Ext., Arlington 02474, or they can be deposited in the envelope posted inside the Newland Rd. entrance of the school.

Author saves teen, 'death truck' strikes

This is the first article in a monthly series that will glimpse into Arlington's past. Once each month, I'll look back to newspapers from that month at an earlier time.

In no way should these articles be considered an attempt to portray Arlington's complete history. If you want to read in-depth pieces about Arlington's history, there are numerous books on the subject that tell of the town's storied past.

But in this column I want to provide small nuggets of stories, advertisements, and other items found in Advocates of other eras as a way to look back on Arlington life.

The following notes are not the only events that occurred in those weeks. In fact, they may not have even been the most important story at the time. But they do give a sense of a different era and may give you background on people and places.

— Les Masterson, editor

Looking Back



LES MASTERSON

some of the neighboring towns." Jan. 27, 1872

"Mystic Street wants to know, if some enterprising citizen or citizens do not desire to purchase the 'loose stones' that are now so thickly lying upon that street. If they were eggs, the horses would probably break some dozy one's head. Does not anyone want them? Do not all speak at once. If they are not soon removed, all the neighbors will turn out and pitch them into Pierce's 'Pond hole.'" One public spirited individual has already commenced a raid upon them."

Jan. 19, 1900

Arlington Veteran Firemen's Association's first annual ball was held at the Town Hall in order to "raise funds to carry out the purposes and aims of the officers and members of the organization." The event was a sellout and more tickets could have been sold as to pack people into Town Hall "like a sardine box." The crowd danced on the "uncomfortably crowded" stage and the smoking places were also to full capacity. Expert electrician R.W. LeBaron gave "the finishing touch and a brilliancy and novel effect that has not been nearly approached on former occasions, rich as they have been." The hall was decked out with two fire-embles, three large fire scenes, and "old-time fire buckets."

Advertisement: J. Henry Hartwell & Son of Arlington Undertakers, established in 1841, and located at 44 Mystic St. and 19 Whittemore St. announces they "will attend to all duties connected with our profession."

Jan., 26, 1900

"Miss Harriet Mills, who is spending the winter west, is having a delightful season and accepting numerous invitations and attentions from western relatives and friends."

"The Board of Health has arranged with Thomas Quigley of Winchester for the service at fixed and reasonable rates of his odorless apparatus to empty cesspools and vaults. Old cesspools are frequently found filled to overflowing with house drainage, offensive and dangerous to health. In some cases the town sewers are not accessible, and some owners fail to appreciate the advantages of our excellent sewer system."

Jan. 6, 1912

"It does not seem to be generally known that the Robbins Spring Hotel, on Robbins Road, has been converted into a sanatorium for patients addicted to liquor or drug habits. It is under the direction of Dr. Henry Hull and has been open since last April, so we are informed."

The town is preparing for a Special Town Meeting, where there will be an article, which "asks that the town accept the proposal of the Misses Ida F. Eliza P., and Caira Robbins, of this town, to erect a Town House on the lot long reserved for the purpose of a Town House, on the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Academy Street. The Misses Robbins propose to park the grounds surrounding the Town House, which feature a superb bronze statue of an Indian, executed by Cyrus Dallin, the eminent sculptor, resident of Arlington Heights, which will overlook a series of water basins or fountains."

Jan. 13, 1912

"One of our lady friends, who is an enthusiastic supporter of the Symmes Hospital, wants us to tell all our readers that the hospital is not nearly so inaccessible as people imagine it. She said she reached the hospital on Sunday in 18 minutes. She took the electric car from Water Street to Grove and then walked the rest of the distance. It was not a time waster, but the thought occurred to her, after reaching the hospital to see how

long it had taken and her record was 18 minutes."

Advertisement: The Arlington Advocate subscription drive tells readers, "Nothing call fill the place of a local paper like this one... High toned, clean in every way, bright newsy — is like sunlight in the home..."

Jan. 12, 1939

The following headline lead this week's paper: "Driver of Death Truck in another crash here." "Michael D. Rosa, the same man whose truck killed George P. Wilson two weeks ago, drove his oil truck into one pole on Massachusetts Avenue near Bartlett Avenue this morning, and then into another, badly damaging the truck and slightly injuring himself. The same man, the same truck, the same hour of the morning, almost the same spot. Since the street was covered with oil, which poured from the truck, the fire department stood by to prevent fire until the mess was cleaned up." The morning before the latest accident Rosa of Lexington was found guilty for driving to endanger and fined \$50 for the accident that killed Wilson.

Jan. 19, 1939

Advertisement: "Attention Arlington Women. Jenny Leddy of Miss Leddy's School, will conduct a class in Personality Poise Posture beginning next Tuesday evening at 7:30, Legionary Auxiliary Rooms, Old P.O. Building, 7 Court Street."

"James Tierney of 569 Summer St. and Albert Keefe of Waltham found the unconscious form of Mrs. Mabel Grant at 32 Dudley St. at the foot of hospital hill late Monday afternoon, and believing her to be the victim of a hit-and-run driver, they carried her up the hill to the hospital. And although examination showed that she had merely fainted, Mrs. Grant is duly grateful to the two Samaritans. Monday, it will be remembered, was a cold day."

Local eateries provide Valentine's Day ideas

Valentine's Day dining news: The Arlington Bakery, 187 Mass. Ave., will make heart-shaped cakes. Special orders only. Closed Mondays, including Valentines' Day. Call 646-7444.

Café Nina, 102 Summer St., will have a special, romantic menu. Call 643-1711.

The Chateau, 645 Mass. Ave., will serve the regular menu and a fixed price menu with three entree selections: lamb chops, beef tenderloin, and "lazy" lobster. There'll be roses for the women and a champagne toast. Reservations accepted. Call 646-1404.

La Buona Vita, 450 Mass. Ave., will have a special three-course, fixed price menu. Reservations accepted. Call 641-4734.

Prose, 352A Mass. Ave., will offer a special four-course dinner. Price \$50, includes a glass of champagne. Reservations requested between 6 and 9 p.m. Call 648-2800.

Quebrada Baking Co., 208 Mass. Ave., will sell yellow and chocolate hearts shaped cakes (6 and \$12); heart-shaped sugar cookies (\$11/lb.); chocolate dipped heart-shaped sugar cookies (\$13/lb.); and raspberry-filled shortbread hearts (\$16/lb.) Order personalized cakes in two days in advance. Call 648-0700.

Ye Olde Bake Shoppe, 916 Mass. Ave., will sell heart-shaped cakes and cookies. Advanced orders required for cakes. Open daily. Call 646-2253.

The Cookbook Shelf: "Bake It To The Limit" (William Morrow, 1999) by pastry chef Dede Wilson focuses on the tricks of the trade from the dessert world. There are recipes for cakes, cookies, mousses, pies, and tarts, of course, plus special pointers that will make your dessert truly amazing. Offer your company Espresso White Chocolate Chunk Cookies, B&B Frozen Chocolate Mousse, or Banana Bourbon

Brioche Bread Pudding. Price \$30. "The Maxwell House Coffee Drinks & Desserts Cookbook" Clarkson Potter, (1999) is a personal favorite. Editor Barbara Albright offers a history of coffee and the Maxwell House company. The desserts are organized by time of day, and the level of difficulty is measured by coffee cups. Whip up Cappuccino Sticky Buns. Tropical Coffee Banana Bread, or Chocolate Cherry Coffee. A great gift for the coffee and dessert lover. Price, \$22.50.

"Sweet Celebrations" (Simon & Schuster, 1999) is the much-anticipated book by wedding cake artist Sylvia Weinstock. Weinstock takes you through the process of creating special occasion cakes with cake, frosting, and filling recipes, and advice on sugar dough, flowers, and other decorations. Each cake has a level of difficulty, but with time and patience, you, too, can create a work of art. Price, \$35.

Anne-Marie Seltzer is a regular Advocate contributor. To reach Anne-Marie, send your questions and comments to The Arlington Advocate, 9 Meriam St., Lexington 02173. Email: amselz@yahoo.com.

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Town's Democratic caucus scheduled for Feb. 5

Registered Democrats in Arlington will hold their caucus at noon Saturday, Feb. 5 at the Community Safety for the purpose of electing 35 delegates and 8 alternates to the 2000 Massachusetts Democratic Conven-

tion. Delegates must be divided equally between men and women.

The caucus is open to all registered Democrats in Arlington. Those registered Democrats unable to attend may be consid-

ered for Delegate and Alternate by 2/3 of those present and voting.

The Convention will be held Saturday, June 3, at the Tsongas Arena in Lowell.

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Fighting a civil suit can be a very challenging event and should be handled by an experienced attorney. Selecting the right attorney to work with can make the process a lot easier and more successful. If you're looking for experience combined with a successful track record, call our office today. We conduct a general civil practice, concentrating in the areas of personal injury, business law, real estate, wills/trusts & estates, probate, family law, workers' compensation, bankruptcy, and civil litigation in both the State and Federal courts. We're conveniently located in Arlington Center.

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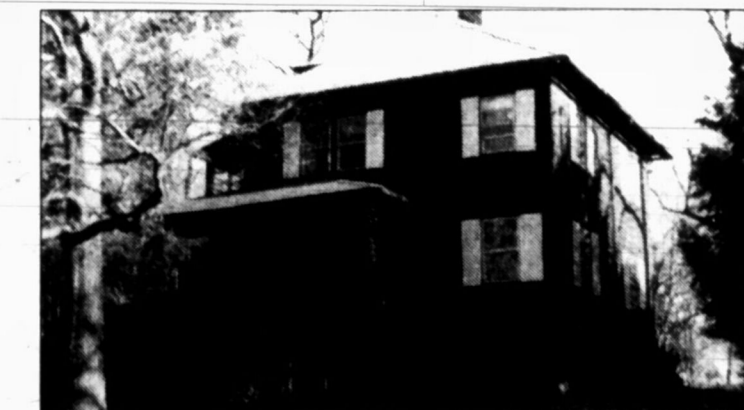
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COMMENT



The Birthplace of "Uncle Sam"

Samuel Wilson

EDITORIAL

Town is not immune to domestic violence

The district attorney's response to a reporter's question during a press conference after the package-bomb murder of Sandra Berfield last week was most telling. Had the system "failed" Berfield, Middlesex DA Martha Coakley was asked?

"She is on the autopsy table. I would have to say yes," Coakley replied, candidly.

Meanwhile, when asked about domestic violence and restraining orders, Arlington's Director of Police Services Fred Ryan told *The Advocate* Wednesday, "Any victim of domestic violence is potentially at risk of becoming a homicide."

Before the package-bomb detonated, "the system" worked for Sandra Berfield of Everett. Berfield alleged a Medford man, Stephen Caruso, who frequented the restaurant where she once worked, had stalked her, slashed her tires and poured battery acid and antifreeze into her fuel tank. Based in part on Berfield's own videotape of Caruso damaging her car, a judge sent the man to jail for 189 days in late 1998. At the time, the stalking charge was dropped by the DA's office because prosecutors could not prove Caruso had put Berfield in "imminent danger of death or bodily injury," which is the standard that now has to be met under the law.

To date, Caruso has not been charged in connection with Berfield's death, so it might be premature to say a stronger anti-stalking law would have helped keep Berfield alive.

The problems of domestic violence and stalking do not only occur in cities — they are also concerns in Arlington. According to Ryan, there are approximately 125 active restraining orders in town.

In fact, in a town like Arlington, domestic violence stands out in the volume of calls, he said. It happens in the home with no witnesses, where the batterer controls the environment, he added.

There are many factors that go into a woman's decision to leave and we should not vilify a woman for staying. Instead, we need to help these women realize that it is OK to leave, and provide assistance and protection for them.

The horror of Berfield's death — and the daily fears countless women face — bring added importance to House bill 1898, filed by state Sen. Pam Resor, D-Acton, and a subsequent amendment she filed. If this bill becomes law, it would give people who are targets of stalkers more leverage and more protection.

Resor's bill and amendment would ease the two-part standard now needed for a stalking conviction: a pattern of harassment and the threat of death or bodily harm. Resor's proposal would allow a victim to seek the same kind of restraining order from a court now available to a woman only if the abuser is a "family or household member" — someone she knows or has had a relationship with. The amendment also could lead to imprisonment for anyone who "willfully and maliciously engages in a knowing pattern of conduct or series of acts over a period of time ... which seriously alarms (a) person and would cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress."

In other words, a person doesn't have to be in imminent danger or death or serious bodily harm to get protection from the courts and police, if this bill becomes law.

This is the kind of thinking that helps close loopholes in legislation and gives women — and law enforcement — more remedies for protecting against stalkers or harassers.

Ryan said that the Arlington police try to protect victims by having one inspector devoted to domestic violence prevention. The inspector works with victims in preventative actions in an attempt to plan for the next attack.

"Domestic violence crimes are predictable and therefore preventable," said Ryan, quoting a Kansas City, Mo., study which showed that 90 percent of domestic violence-related homicides included previous assistance by the police on a domestic call.

"If you think there is something suspicious and think you need to call the police, you do," said Ryan.

All the legislation in the world is not going to end domestic violence. Legislation will help and we need to start assisting domestic violence victims and punish abusers more severely. But, as a society, we should not ostracize the abused, but the abuser. Until that happens, we have no prayer of ending domestic violence.



DAVE GRANLUND@ZOOMETROWEST DAILY NEWS

Bone-chilling cold still better than living in L.A.

When they think of snow, some people think of snowmen, sledding, and a blanket of old-fashioned calm settling upon the streets. Others think of scraping the car, shoveling the walk, and difficult driving conditions.

A person's fondness for the white stuff seems to be in direct relation to where she has to be and how urgently she needs to be there. Now that I'm staying home with my daughters, I relish snow days as a time to hunker down, make snow angels, and drink hot chocolate. I like to think that this means I haven't lost my childlike sense of joy and wonder.

But it wasn't too many years ago that I remember trying to dig my car out of a parking space where the snowplows had pushed a barrier of wet, heavy snow against the length of my car. I was late for a 9 a.m. class and hated the snow at that moment. I briefly wished that I lived in Los Angeles, a place I generally avoid even visiting. Shortly afterward, I remember thinking with horror that, if I hated snow, I must have become

an adult without even knowing it.

But, wherever you stand on the issue of snow, you've got to prefer it to the bracing cold of last week. In the middle of our Arctic blast, it snowed a bit last week and felt almost balmy!

It's hard to believe that just a month ago, there were a couple of days when it was in the 60s. At the time, I distinctly remember thinking back to winters when I was young — freezing as I stood in the cold waiting for the bus to take me to school.

I often think, "we don't have winters like that anymore," much the way I remember my grandparents saying it.

The reality is I no longer wait for the bus outdoors with exposed knees (between the skirt of my Catholic uniform and my knees) with a hat stuffed in my school bag because it wasn't cool to wear. (That last part has come back to haunt me as my 3-year-old whips her hat off whenever I let my guard down. I waver between annoyance that she thinks she can get away with this and admiration that she came to this so young — I

was at least nine before I began to sneak my hat off and then only when I turned the corner of our street and away from the watchful eyes of my mother.)

In any case, from record highs last month, we are at near record lows this month. This week, it warmed up into the 20s. It just goes to show that with weather, as with all else, everything's relative. It also goes to show the positive nature of New Englanders. If we're not reveling in today's weather, we're looking forward to a better day. We look forward to 25 degree weather as "warming up." The glass is certainly half full.

In a couple of days, the temperature may be up to 25 degrees. In a couple of weeks, we may even reach the 40s again. In a couple of months, the crocuses may be gamely breaking free of the soil. There is an inherent optimism in watching the extremes of the seasons that I admire greatly. Who really wants to live in L.A. anyway?

Marlissa Briggett is an Arlington resident and *Advocate* columnist.

The assessor is coming! The assessor is coming!

The invasion happened at my house last week. And I even had an appointment for it.

I didn't know that it was an invasion until some helpful residents pointed it out on the Town Hall steps late last year, warning us about the town's revaluation process. Apparently, someone is actually supposed to enter our castle, our domain, our kingdom, our realm, and report on its configuration to the government.

This is clearly unconstitutional. Before you know it, they'll ask us to register our cars, count us up for what they say is a census, or even try to stop us from owning rocket launchers needed to protect us from intruders (I notice every day, in fact, someone in a government-supplied uniform putting many suspicious envelopes and pamphlets into a box hanging outside my house).

So when a representative from Patriot Properties Inc. (odd that these agents of the government call themselves "patriots") arrived to inspect my house as part of Arlington's assessment process, I was prepared. I dressed in full camouflage and hid in the downstairs bathroom, which by the way is not a full bathroom, but a half bathroom because even though there's a shower

we don't have a shower curtain.

When the knock came (the doorbell doesn't work, which surely lowers the property value 100 bucks or so), I peered outside to make sure the inspector was alone. He was stamping his feet in the cold and snow and loosening stones on the rotting front stairs. I calculated that with every step, he was reducing the value of the house \$12.76. I let him stay out there five minutes and do \$1,914 worth of damage before I slowly opened the front door.

He was clever, I'll give him that. He brought a clipboard and paper to make it look like he was cataloging innocuous items like number of bedrooms and bathrooms in the house, but he couldn't fool me. I detected his keen interest in my family's belongings, habits, predilections.

Luckily, I had hidden my wife's ABBA records (possession of which is a criminal offense in most countries) in the secret room behind a bookcase, which I can't emphasize enough does not add value to a house. Since the room is quite large (how large I'm not at liberty to say), I had plenty of space to stash my Ronald Reagan film collection and my daughter's 612 Beanie Babies.

When I saw the inspector turn to the room with the bookcase (which is not a bedroom despite the closet inside since it doesn't have a bed but a futon and I didn't see any category for futon-room), I steered him away to the kitchen, if you can even call it that. No real kitchen, after all, has a spot

where you can scrape your head on the ceiling when you stand up straight. I explained to the inspector that this room is more like a crawl space with running water, an oven, cabinets, and a dishwasher than a kitchen.

As he prepared to leave after trampling on my privacy and my Constitution for 43 seconds, I casually asked if he was planning to look at the outside of the property. Then this devil with a clipboard and a pompom hat finally told me the truth. His company had already inspected the outside of my house last month — without my permission.

So I didn't have any chance to tell an inspector that the structure in the backyard that appears to be a shed actually contains a kiddie swimming pool and a T-ball set, thus making it a large toy chest that certainly has nothing to do with the value of the house.

Now I regret even letting the inspector into my house. I only made the appointment to report every detail as a service to my neighbors, who by the way have made some very nice home improvements lately that I'm sure add lots of value to their property.

When property taxes go up 2 1/2 percent, their lavish homes (mansions really) should make up for the fact that my home (hovel really) is worth about as much as a junked car. And if the home inspectors ever come back, that's exactly what I'm going to put on my front lawn.

Lewis Rice is a resident of Arlington and *Advocate* columnist.



LEWIS RICE

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MISSION STATEMENT

It is the goal of *The Arlington Advocate* to provide our readers with the highest quality local coverage they desire and need, in a newspaper that is accurate, timely and filled with an intimate and lively portrait of the community in which they live, work and play.

Let your voice be heard through a letter to the editor

The *Arlington Advocate* welcomes letters to the editor.

To be published, letters must include a signature and either a daytime phone number, home phone number, or both.

Letters should be limited to 500 words. We reserve the right to edit for space and clarity, or to run a sampling of opinion when multiple letters are submitted on the same topic.

Letters must be dropped off at one of the drop boxes — at White Hen, Pantry, 94 Summer St., and D'Agostino's Deli, 1297 Massachusetts Ave. — by noon Monday or delivered by 5 p.m. Monday to the office at 9 Meriam St., Lexington 02420.

Readers can also fax their letters to (781) 674-7735 or e-mail them to arlington@cnc.com by 5 p.m. Monday.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Supporting Eaton

As I am sure you are aware, in March 2000, we will be voting for the candidate we wish to represent our party in the next presidential election. In addition, we will also have the opportunity to vote for representatives to our local political organizations.

It is on the local level that the individual voter has the greatest impact. In the case of committee-man, there will be four candidates running for this position in the

Republican Party.

I would like to urge my fellow Republicans to vote for Amos Eaton as state committeeman. His activism, not only in Arlington, but also in all of the towns of the Fourth Middlesex has been substantial. Arlington will be well served having Amos Eaton representing us at the State Committee.

Judith A. Quimby

Chairman

Republican Town Committee

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

■ LETTERS, FROM PAGE 8

Upset about program

As the season for registration for Community Education begins, I'd like to share my experiences with the Mad Science program at Dallin. Last fall I registered my first grade daughter for Mad Science. She and 10 others were brought to the designated classroom by the After School Connection staff, only to be told they were not on the list and to "leave the room." The After School staff characterized the response as "rude."

I heard nothing from the office about not getting into the class, nor was my \$86 check returned. In November, I was distressed to find that my check had been cashed.

I have since had many conversations with Linda Garrity from Community Education. I was first told I would receive a refund in three weeks (that was in early November). I was then told the reason that they cashed my check was that my daughter was indeed enrolled in the class and that the teacher could identify my daughter and the person who picked her up from class. When asked to describe the person that the Mad Science teachers thought was my daughter, their description was nothing like my daughter's appearance. Only then did they admit they had made a mistake. I finally received a refund of the \$86 on Jan. 10 after writing to the superintendent of schools.

This situation poses a number of disturbing questions for Mad Science, Community Education, and for the schools themselves. How can they run a program and not know who is enrolled in the class? How can parents trust this program to keep track of very young children? Does the principal or superintendent's office impose any standards on this program that requires basic safety concerns as in knowing exactly who is in the class? Who is this other first grader who the Mad Science teachers thought was my daughter? (There is not another girl in the entire Dallin community with either my daughter's first name or last name.) Finally, who would they have called if this child needed medical attention?

I thought Mad Science would be a worthwhile program for my daughter. However, if basic issues such as accounting for who is in the classroom cannot be addressed, no enrichment program is worth it.

Laurie Everett

ConCom responds

The Arlington Conservation Commission wishes to reply to Mr. Aram Hollman's letter in the Jan. 13 *Advocate* concerning the proposed hotel project at 19 Massachusetts Ave. (the former Alewife Volvo dealer site).

The commission does not believe it has the broad authority or mandate Mr. Hollman asserts it has to "reject" this project. The commission invites Mr. Hollman to show us the bylaw or state law which he believes gives the commission the authority to stop this project, does in a single stroke, correct the many factors which contribute to flooding in East Arlington.

Under the state Wetlands Protection Act and Arlington's Wetlands Bylaw, the commission reviews applications for proposed work in wetlands, floodplains, and certain bodies of water. One of the standards a project proposed for a floodplain must meet is that the project will not decrease the volume of the flood-

plain to store flood water; if it does, it must create an equal amount of new flood storage capacity or volume elsewhere within the boundaries of the floodplain. This is known as compensatory flood storage, and is, for the most part, accurately described by Mr. Hollman in his letter. However, Mr. Hollman is in effect in characterizing the use of compensatory storage as a "precedent" as many projects across the state have been approved which provide it.

The commission, the environmental consultant it hired, as well as the state Department of Environmental Protection all found that the hotel project would not increase flooding, in part due to the project's use of compensatory flood storage. Mr. Hollman is too late in asking the commission to "reject this proposal" as the commission ruled on it over a year ago. Abutters to the project appealed the commission's decision to the state (twice); the final decision from the administrative law judge was issued last summer.

Unfortunately, the commission's regulatory authority only allows it to address neighborhood or area flooding on a piecemeal basis as applications come before it at different times for work on individual lots. Current law does not grant the commission the authority to require the project on one lot to solve neighborhood flooding problems, especially those on site. The commission may only require the applicant to not increase flooding problems.

Nevertheless, the commission is sympathetic to and aware of flooding issues in East Arlington. While the commission is constrained in its regulatory capacity, it is committed to working with other town boards, groups, and citizens to address the flooding.

Arlington Conservation
Commission
submitted by
Nathaniel Stevens,
Commissioner

Letter writer responds

In the *Arlington Advocate* on Jan. 16, there was a letter of mine in which I said that Arlington should give its students the best education it can, and so it should hire the best teachers it can get whether they be black or white or oriental or Latino. I did not go into any additional details regarding how they should be selected. Therefore, Joe Tully's statement, in his rambling diatribe against me and my letter in *The Advocate* of Jan. 13, that because I would exclude the racial and ethnic requirements that he considers essential, I was advocating "an indefinable and mythical standard" is entirely unjustified.

I said that "one of the ideas that guided American education during the period of declining standards was that some teachers should be hired from certain minority groups even in preference to people from other groups who might be better qualified." I neither said nor implied that this is the only factor that should be considered with regard to those declining standards. Therefore, his statement that I did not consider other factors because I have "a lazy mind" was a gratuitous insult.

I graduated from Cambridge High and Latin School in 1949 after being educated in Cambridge public schools, which offered an excellent education in those days. There were minorities in those schools, and they were held to the same standards as everyone else.

The teachers applied the same high professional standards to the

teaching of all the students regardless of their race or ethnicity. Those teachers were hired in accordance with standards that did not include race or ethnicity. They would be surprised to learn that they therefore must have been hired in accordance with "an indefinable and mythical standard."

If minority teachers must be hired even in preference to better qualified white teachers because otherwise the minority students would have no one with whom they can relate, then this will tend to decrease academic standards and fragment the schools and the society and move us away from the ideal of *e pluribus unum* (out of many one).

Christine Carney's letter of criticism in *The Advocate* of Jan. 13 contains errors. She says, "It is wrong to assume that the students of color who attend our public schools all come from other cities," and "it is also wrong to assume that the teachers and staff of city schools are all people of color." I did not make nor imply any of these statements, and I did not use the words "people of color." What I said was, "today, in order to get a better education, minority students come to Arlington from other cities which have far more minority teachers than Arlington has."

She said, "I have been attending monthly meetings with the superintendent of schools, members of the Diversity Task Group of Vision 2020, the African-American Society, and the Arlington director of the METCO program to discuss the need and the process to hire people of color and diverse background to work in our public schools. At no time was it ever discussed that qualified teachers or staff be passed over for the sake of hiring a person of color or diverse background."

So the avowed purpose of these meetings was not to hire the most qualified teachers, but to hire minority teachers. This would make Arlington schools like the schools in the cities out of which the students are bused under METCO where academic standards are lower, because in any school system the teachers are more important than the buildings and equipment. If Arlington had been hiring teachers in accordance with a procedure which discriminated against people of color then someone could have pointed out that this procedure is illegal, but such is not the case, and if the procedure were changed to one which gave preference to people of color, that procedure would be illegal.

People making plans to hire minority teachers would not say that they want to bypass better qualified white teachers even if in fact that would be the result of their plan just as people who demand quotas for minorities also demand that the word "quotas" not be used. They prefer other words such as "verifiable goals" which mean the same thing.

Mrs. Carney says "I am tired of people assuming that if a person of color is hired it must mean that a more qualified white person was not hired." To avoid this assumption just set up a system that does not give any racial or ethnic group any more opportunity to learn of a job opening and apply for it than any other racial or ethnic group. Then hire the best-qualified applicants without regard for race or ethnicity. It will not matter if this procedure leads to the hiring of teachers who are all people of color as long as they are the most qualified.

We should discard the stereotype that all white people are privileged racist oppressors and all people of color are innocent downtrodden victims. There is

good and bad in both groups. The people of color of Arlington should not restrict themselves to the society of other people of color. They should be able to relate to white people as fellow students, as teachers, as friends, as neighbors and if some are so inclined, as lovers, and marriage partners. Of course no one should enter into marriage for ideological reasons, but interracial love and marriage should not be forbidden. *E pluribus unum.*

Harold Ramsey

Be a life-giver

My father died last month. His name was Dr. George Andrew. Many of you knew him. Those who did know that he was a generous man. I wanted everyone to know the generous gift he made at the end of his life. He was an organ donor, which makes him a life-giver. His time had come, and that is sad. However, in dying he gave life to another with the gift of his liver.

If you have never thought about organ donation, let me tell you, it is the greatest thing you can do. My father died during Christmas week. As I was sitting in the hospital with my family, knowing that my father was gone, the comment was made, "what a lousy time of year for this to happen." At that moment, the thought occurred to me that, somewhere out there, there was a family that was saying, "what a wonderful time of year for this to happen."

You see, they had just received a phone call that their father, brother, husband, son or friend had been found for him. Yes, it's ironic that one family's loss is another's gain.

That is one thing that makes organ donation so wonderful. I know that this thought, that we had brought such happiness to others through this decision, made it easier for my family to keep the Christmas Spirit, despite our loss. If you have been struggling with the decision whether or not to be a donor, please consider the consolation it will bring your family. I can tell you first hand, it helped... a lot.

This is a very personal decision, and a difficult one, and I would never condemn someone who chooses not to be an organ donor. Nevertheless, you often hear about the joy in the hearts of the recipient family. I write this letter to let you know that the joy in the hearts of the donor's family is equally great.

Thanks, Dad, for yet another lesson taught to your son.

Stephen Andrew

Thanks D.P.W.

The Arlington Public Schools Transportation Department would like to express its sincere thanks to the Arlington Public Works staff for all their assistance and cooperation during the most recent difficult weather.

During the snowstorm of Jan. 13, the Public Works Department responded immediately with sand trucks to our radio calls for assistance as our buses struggled to navigate the town's hills. Several days later, when our buses were stranded due to the extreme cold, the Public Works garage staff offered assistance. Due to their help, our vehicles were quickly returned to service enabling us to transport our children home that day.

Because the safety of our students is of the utmost importance, it has been reassuring to know that the Public Works Department has always been there when we were in need of their support.

Richard Iannelli
Supervisor of Transportation

Arlington is not Lincoln

This letter is in response to a letter from Jay Hersh in the Jan. 20 edition of *The Advocate* ["Dislikes Real Estate section"]. In his letter, Mr. Hersh complained that *The Advocate's* Real Estate section no longer featured Arlington listings with towns such as Lexington, Lincoln, and Bedford.

Mr. Hersh mentioned that he and his upwardly mobile friends view Arlington as a "gateway" town in which to live. I've been living and working in Arlington for a few years and I didn't realize that Arlington is a town you move to when you're waiting for something better to come along. Here I was content and happy and I had no idea that Arlington was just some waiting room or stop over before I move to some bland Wonder Bread gated community! Mr. Hersh also argues that the demographics in Arlington are closer to that of Lincoln, Lexington, and Bedford.

I would strongly disagree; Arlington still has a population of middle and working class families (we're being pinched but we're hanging in there). The towns Mr. Hersh mentioned really do not. We have large and small populations of Greeks, Italians, African Americans, Pakistani, and Middle Eastern folks, as well as others from all over the world. The towns Mr. Hersh mentioned do not.

Although Arlington may not be as diverse as say parts of Somerville, I challenge Mr. Hersh to take a walk through Arlington Center. Once there I think he would see a bit more of a diverse crowd than if he were to walk through Lexington Center.

Maybe Mr. Hersh would feel more comfortable if the town adopted "Until Something Better Comes Along" as its official motto. Instead of "Celebrate Diversity" on the banners of the light poles in the center, maybe we should have "Until Something Better" banners strung up all over town. Maybe we should have a "Until Something Better" booth at Town Day.

We could sell Arlington door-mats and maps to other towns. To you Mr. Hersh and to all others like you who use Arlington as their stepping stone and who are easily impressed with how prestigious your address looks on the top of your stationary, please do us all a favor and go straight to...ahhh.....Lincoln!

Chris Clark

Zones don't solve problem

Mr. and Mrs. Prindle ["Peanut allergies could be a matter of life and death," Jan. 20 *Advocate*] accuse those who do not agree with the attempted school-wide ban on peanut butter sandwiches and other peanut products, as being heartless and ignorant. On the contrary, I believe the dangers posed to a child with peanut allergies is such a serious health issue that I am shocked that any parent would believe that they can protect a child's health by relying on such a ban's enforcement in every school cafeteria, at every lunch slot, for every day, for 180 days, for every year of the child's enrollment in school.

The logic of the assumption that any public school cafeteria can or should be run like an efficient police state defies my understanding. Are parents of children with allergies to rely on three to four cafeteria staff and a few volunteers to inspect each lunch for possible peanut contraband or cross-contaminants? Will the cafeteria ladies be authorized to take away a

child's lunch that has been provided by a parent? Is it likely that a thousand families each day will scrutinize each of their children's lunches to the extent required to avoid the health issues for the allergic child?

Mr. and Mrs. Prindle's own allergic doctor warns them that "... the problem with peanut free zones is that they lull people into a false sense of security." However, that point seems to escape the Prindles when they chastise others for disagreeing with the attempted ban. Notice they, themselves, want to create a peanut free zone that extends throughout every cafeteria and classroom in Arlington. How false is that level of security?

A lunch period is 15 minutes long in an elementary school. It would be much more of a secure health solution to have a separate and clean eating area monitored by a person educated about the allergies of the affected children. Maybe this is not the most desirable situation a child with allergies would want, but then children with diabetes and other health issues have to learn to take responsibility for their eating habits at school regardless of their emotional desires. In fact, all children should learn to cope with a less than perfect world; and with a little creative thought, a controlled peanut free zone could be made to be a fun place to visit for those who wish to comply to its tightly monitored standards.

Most parents worry about their child's well being at school. For those parents of children with allergies, it must be even more worrisome; however, a blanket policy that expects every person who packs a lunch for an Arlington student to be responsible for the health of a child with allergies is a recipe for disaster. Only the vigilance of the parents concerned to educate their child about the child's own health requirements and the establishment of a tightly-controlled eating environment could help alleviate most of the risks a child with allergies must cope with each day.

E. Dobens

Robbins Farm plans at library

On Wednesday night, Jan. 19, at the new Brackett School, a crowd of about 50 Friends of Robbins Farm Park and other neighbors and interested folk listened to four different visions of the future of the Park presented by students in landscape design from Radcliffe. They were inspiring presentations, well thought out, and well presented (one with music!). The poster drawings and reports of their concepts and plantings for the park are now on exhibit at the Robbins Library Reading Room and will be there through February. On behalf of Friends, we would like to thank the Radcliffe class for their effort and artistry and imagination. The students are all "second career" people. One student reported she had visited the park many times and talked to many people, visiting in the rain, in the cold, in the fog, at night, during beautiful days.

For implementation, we're looking to the year 2002 for planned capital expenditure of \$200,000 on the park. There is a long process of public meetings with the Parks and Recreation Commission and Town Meeting before any work gets started. There is a poll and notebook posted at the library for public comment on the Radcliffe plans. Meanwhile, Friends is planning on a Spring clean-up day (look for notice) and a kite flying day Saturday, April 22.

Oakes Plimpton

Camp, School & Activities Directory



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Winter Survival Guide

Area museums help you while away the season's shorter days

BY THERESA DEFRANZO
CONCORD CORRESPONDENT

It's wintertime, and chances are nearly every member of your household has a case of cabin fever.

But fear not. While the season may drag on for many more weeks, it doesn't mean you have to sit home suffering from the winter blues.

Your neighborhood offers plenty of activities to keep you busy this winter — especially the little ones. So the next time your kids tell you they can't think of anything to do, why not take them on an archaeological dig, an afternoon tea, a telephone take-apart or a story hour? That's right. These activities and many more are just a few miles away at the Concord Museum in Concord and the Discovery Museums in Andover.

And don't forget about the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park in Lincoln. It too has a number of activities and exhibits running throughout the winter months.

Some of the activities planned this winter at the Discovery Museums include "Baking Bubbles" on Feb. 5 in the science class and "Ice Investigations" on Feb. 29 in the science building.

Among the more popular activities are the story hours held in the children's building, said Pat Beran, director of public relations.

The staff reads a story and then the children do an activity," she said.

What are some books featured this winter? On Jan. 27, a staff



Barbara Forman, left, dressed as Lidian Emerson, talks with Sudbury third-graders at the Concord Museum.

member will read "Rainbow Crow" by Nancy Van Laan, followed by making snowflake mobiles.

The story hours — as well as the other activities the museums offer — will not only give your kids a chance to take part in some interesting activities, but it will give

families a chance to spend some time together. That's how Beran and Judy Stern, director of education and interpretation at the Concord Museum, see it.

For instance, the first Friday night of each month, the Discovery Museums' doors open to the Children's Museum from 5:30 to 8

p.m., so families are able to take in the museum together — something that families with two working parents aren't able to do during weekday hours, Beran said.

Some of the more popular activities at The Concord Museum also foster child-parent participation. They include the adult/child

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JUDY STERN
CONCORD MUSEUM DIRECTOR OF
EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

tea, adult/child shoebox archaeological dig and basket-making workshop. The tea is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 13. Tea-goers get to enjoy tea and goodies, and they can make a special heart to take home.

"The teas with adults are very popular, so we decided to do one around Valentine's Day and let the kids take home a homemade Valentine," Stern said.

A basket-making workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 22. Participants can join Marilyn Raleigh, a member of the Lexington Arts & Crafts Society Basket-makers Guild and museum instructor, in creating a small basket of natural and dyed reed.

"It's helpful to have an adult [at this activity]," Stern said. "It's nice to have an extra pair of hands."

Also on Feb. 22, children ages 9 and up and accompanied by an adult can become archaeologists for the morning and search for 4,000-year-old Native American stone tools and related objects. Stern said the archaeological digs are always a hit.

"We have the archaeological

digs three or four times a year," she said. "There's always a high interest. Both adults and children seem interested in it. We teach them a respect for what they are doing."

These programs are popular, Stern said, because they offer children an interesting and entertaining afternoon, and because kids and their parents or grandparents get to spend some time together.

"People seem to be looking for [these types of programs]," Stern said. "It gives you time to slow down and have that quality experience."

It's also a wonderful way to introduce museums to children, she said. These programs "say to a child that museums are fun. We are creating museum-goers of the future, and at the same time it's educational," Stern said.

One of the programs at the DeCordova Museum tackles a serious subject matter in a way that allows all family members to learn. The exhibition is "Witness and Legacy: Contemporary Art About the Holocaust." This exhibition runs through March 12.

The museum's education department has published a Family Guide for families with small children (5 and up) to take them through this exhibit. The Family Guide provides parents and children with a suggested tour of the exhibit with discussion tips and children's activities that correspond with particular artworks.

"We developed the Family Guide so parents can bring their children and have some sort of direction of how to deal with it, because the subject matter is intense," said Sarah Nosal, the museum's marketing and design coordinator. "The Family Guide gives a suggested tour of pieces that are more suitable for children."

Also at the DeCordova, the Dr. Kenneth Germeshausen Art ExperinCenter gives children and adults the opportunity to explore and learn about abstract art. And on Feb. 6 from 1 to 4 p.m. the museum will host "Reflections: A Family Event for Members."

You can explore your own family heritage while investigating "Witness and Legacy: Contemporary Art about the Holocaust." Storyteller Betty Lehrman will share multicultural and Jewish stories and songs, participate in family tours with museum guides, and record your own stories in a memory book. This event is free for members. Non-members pay museum admission.

For more information about these activities and others, call The Concord Museum at (978) 369-9763; The Children's Discovery Museum at (978) 264-4222; or the DeCordova Museum at (781) 259-8355. Reservations are required for some programs.

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